

COMMISSION SENSITIVE
~~**LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE**~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Department of Justice briefing on cell and phone calls from AA Flight 77

Type of Event: Briefing

Date: May 20, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Bill Johnstone

Location: U.S. Department of Justice, Room 1137; Washington, DC

Team: 7

Participants (non-Commission): Dave Novak, Assistant U.S. Attorney; [REDACTED]
Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation; [REDACTED] Special Agent Federal
Bureau of Investigation.

9/11 Law
Enforcement
Privacy

Participants (Commission): Bill Johnstone and John Raidt

[LES] Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave Novak and his team provided a briefing to Team 7 on the calls made from aboard AA Flight 77 on 9/11. This information was derived from a study of all phone records from the flight, an examination of the cell phone records of each of the passengers aboard 9/11 who owned cell phones, and interviews with those who received calls from the flight, as well as with family members of the other passengers and crew. In this way, the briefers were confident that they had identified all completed calls from the flight. This work was conducted in support of the U.S. Justice Department's criminal case against Zacarias Moussaoui.

[LES] All of the calls from Flight 77 were made via the onboard airphone system. That system did not provide information about the location of the airphone from which each call was made, and allowed for the identification of the called number for only three of the eight calls.

[LES] The briefers indicated that the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) for American Airlines Flight 77 was found, but its contents were destroyed by the intense heat it had been subjected to.

[LES] Commission staff was provided with a list of all calls from Flight 77 on 9/11, as follows. (The identities of the callers were derived from credit card information, for the 9:12:18 a.m. call only, and from interviews of the recipients in all other cases.)

COMMISSION SENSITIVE
~~**LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE**~~

[LES] Airfone Calls (all Times Eastern AM):

TIME	CALLER	NUMBER CALLED	RECIPIENT	LENGTH OF CALL
9:11:24	Renee May		Parents	No Connection
9:12:18	Renee May		Parents	158 seconds
9:15:34	Unknown	Operator	Unknown	102 seconds
9:18:58	Barbara Olson	202-514-2201	Ted Olson Office	No Connection
9:20:15	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	274 seconds
9:25:48	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	159 seconds
9:30:56	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	260 seconds

~~[LES]~~ While there was no direct evidence with respect to the “unknown calls,” interviews with recipients (especially Lori Keyton who was answering the phone in Ted Olson’s office on 9/11), plus interviews of family members of other Flight 77 passengers, has lead to the conclusion that all of these unknown calls were from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted’s office.

~~[LES]~~ The briefers knew of no information to substantiate a claim that the #77 hijackers told the other passengers they were about to die, and ordered them to call their relatives. In fact, the briefers thought this was highly unlikely given: 1) the limited English language skills of these hijackers; 2) the fact that only one passenger made calls; and 3) the report from Barbara Olson about an announcement by the “pilot,” which failed to mention the purported communications from the hijackers.

~~[LES]~~ Given the limits in American’s reporting system in place on 9/11, the boarding times for passengers on #11 and #77 cannot be known with precision.

~~[LES]~~ The briefers indicated that Nawaf al Hazmi checked a number of alternative flight dates, via Travelocity, including September 5, 2001.

~~[LES]~~ It was the view of the briefers that the non-pilot hijackers (the “muscle”) were aware that they were on a mission of martyrdom.